

[28 November 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Government which has to ensure development of reliable supply of power in all areas.

Cooperation of China in the power section

1160. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought China's cooperation in the power sector in cleaner technologies, equipment manufacturing and information on transmission and distribution network; and

(b) if so, the China's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister of Power had visited China in September, 2001. The delegation had discussions on wide ranging issues which aimed at understanding how China arranged for finances for its power sector, the tariff structures prevailing in the country, the steps being taken to build its transmission network including the national power grid, the measures adopted for rural electrification and for lowering T and D losses.

Liberalisation of policy for providing power to domestic industries

†1161. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to liberalize the policy for providing power to the domestic industries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As per provisions of Section 43A (1) (c) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, a generating company can sell power to any person with the approval of the Government or Governments concerned.

The Electricity Bill, 2001 as introduced in Lok Sabha in August, 2001, empowers the State Electricity Regulatory Commission to allow open access for consumers in distribution in phases after cross subsidies are eliminated. It also provides that such open access may be allowed before cross subsidies are eliminated on payment of surcharge in addition to the charges for wheeling as may be determined by the State Commission. Such surcharge will be utilized to meet the requirement of current level of cross subsidy. The bill also provides that where such open access has been allowed, such consumers may enter into agreement with any person for supply or purchase of electricity on mutually agreed tariff.

Food given under food-for-work programme

1162. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food given to different States under food-for-work programme during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) how much foodgrains were actually utilized by each State during the allocated period; and

(c) how many working days were created by this food-for-work programme during the last summer, the State-wise figures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) The total quantity of foodgrains allocated to the 11 States during 2000-01 & 2001-02 under the Food for Work Programme is 28.63 lakhs tonnes, out of which 22.45 lakh tonnes have been lifted from the FCI godown and 17.43 lakh tonnes have been distributed/utilized by the concerned States.

According to the report received from 6 States, namely Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and